

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis for the subject matter claimed in claim 2. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled, thereby rendering the objection to the specification moot.

II. Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings for failing to disclose the subject matter claimed in claim 2. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled, thereby rendering the objection to the drawings moot.

III. 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled, thereby rendering the §112 rejection moot.

IV. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/00808695 to Ohsawa in

view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,916 to Bonnet and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,589,793 to Kassapian. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Ohsawa teaches most of the features of independent claim 1 but acknowledges that Ohsawa fails to disclose "a voltage-doubler circuit connected between the secondary side and the booster circuit for providing the discharge lamp a voltage which is obtained by adding an output voltage of the rectification circuit to the output voltage of the secondary side," as recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action alleges that Bonnet cures this deficiency. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Ohsawa fails to disclose a booster circuit having an input for receiving the output of the voltage doubler circuit and the combination of references fail to disclose a method for connecting both the inverter circuit and the voltage doubler circuit to the booster.

The Office Action relies on Figure 1 of Kassapian as disclosing a booster which will satisfy this problem. In particular, the Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious to connect the output of the voltage doubler to D1 and the output of the inverter to Phi1. However, Kassapian discloses that Phi1 and Phi2 are merely clock signals for charging and discharging the capacitors of the disclosed booster circuit. Accordingly, Kassapian fails to disclose a booster circuit capable of receiving two different signals as inputs. Accordingly, the applied combination of references fails to disclose or render obvious all of the features of independent claim 1.

Additionally, the combination of Ohsawa and Bonnet fails to disclose or render obvious the limitations of independent claim 1 because the combination would fail to operate in the manner intended by the present disclosure.

In particular, claim 1 recites a voltage doubler circuit connected between the secondary side and the booster circuit. With reference to Figure 3 of Ohsawa, it is clear that adding a voltage doubler circuit to a secondary side would fail to achieve a desired result

because of the positioning of the ground terminal. In particular, if the voltage doubler circuit were connected across diode 5, the voltage doubler circuit would be shifting the input voltage by 0 because it would be connected to a ground terminal. On the other hand, if the voltage doubler circuit were connected across diode 6, the voltage doubler circuit would shift a positive voltage by a negative voltage which could have a number of undesired effects, i.e., reducing rather than increasing the voltage.

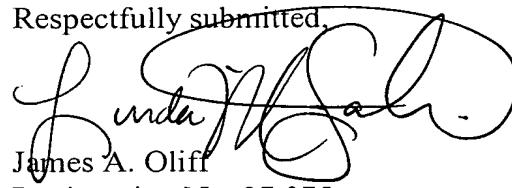
For these reasons, the applied combination of references fails to disclose or render obvious the features of independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Claim 3 is patentable at least for its dependency from claim 1 as well as for the additional features it recites.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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